

**Western Medical Center
Santa Ana**

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To Whom It May Concern:

We applaud OSHPD for promoting hospital quality of care in the State through transparency of mortality data for select surgeries and conditions.

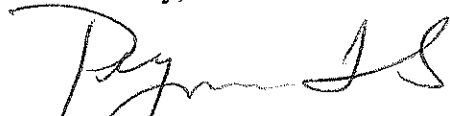
In the OSHPD public release of the 2012 Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators, Western Medical Center Santa Ana has the appearance of a worse-than-average mortality rate in the category of craniotomy when compared to the Statewide mortality rate.

All 2012 craniotomy mortality cases have been reviewed and it has been determined that standard of care was met in all cases. Meaning that the care and management of patients was deemed to be appropriate and within standards of care for these types of patients.


An analysis of our craniotomy patient mortality raw data for 2012 reveals that 2 patients had extremely poor prognoses due to aneurysmal hemorrhages. Five (5) of the 13 patient mortalities were of patients with ages greater than 70 years and 4 patients were aged 80 years or more. Advanced age is a known factor in surgical outcome such that the older the patient is, the higher the risk of a poor surgical outcome. Our investigation also revealed that the majority of the 13 patient mortalities were patients who were "found down" at home for an indeterminate period of time prior to coming to the hospital which is also a known factor which may result in a poor outcome for patients.

We remain dedicated to quality of care and patient safety for all patients as well as for our craniotomy patients.

Sincerely,



Peyman Tabrizi, M.D., Director of Trauma Neurosurgical Services
Western Medical Center Santa Ana



Doug Norris, Administrator/COO
Western Medical Center Santa Ana